

Notice of AllowabilityApplication No.
09/076,528

Applicant(s)

Mennie et al.

Examiner

Anh Hong Do

Art. Unit

2624



--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to RCE on 5/23/2001.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-69.
3. The drawings filed on May 12, 1998 are acceptable as formal drawings.
4. Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) Noneof the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE FOR SUBMITTING NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS, OR A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION. This three-month period for complying with the REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL is extendable under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

6. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
7. Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

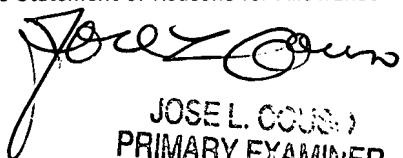
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

8. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449), Paper No(s). <u>29</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |



JOSE L. COSS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The petition, filed on 5/23/2001, to withdraw from issue under 37 CFR 1.313© (2) has been granted on 7/26/2001.

The request, filed on 5/23/2001, for a Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 09/076,528 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

The IDS, filed on 5/23/2001, is partially considered since there are no translations for some Japanese patents.

2. Claims 1-69 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 13, 14, 18, 27, 30, 34 and 36-69 are independent claims.

Regarding claims 1, 42, 48, 55, and 62, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the height dimension of the housing being about 4 times the smaller cross-sectional dimension of the smallest dimensioned bill to be identified by the device;
- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master

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characteristic information.

Regarding claims 13, 43, 49, 56, and 63, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the depth dimension of the housing being about 5 times the smaller cross-sectional dimension of the smallest dimensioned bill to be identified by the device;
- the width dimension of the housing being about 2 times the larger cross-sectional dimension of the smallest dimensioned bill to be identified by the device;
- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

Regarding claims 14, 44, 50, 57, and 64, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the height dimension of the housing being 10 inches;
- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

Regarding claims 18, 51, 58, and 65, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- at least one stacker wheel having one portion extending into the transport path and another portion extending into the output bin, said stacker wheel being located along said

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transport path and spaced apart from the second roller along said transport path by a distance less than the narrow dimension of the bill;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

Regarding claims 27, 40, 46, 52, 59, and 66, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- a footprint of the device defined by the area obtained by multiplying the depth dimension by the width dimension being about 125 square inches;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

Regarding claims 30, 41, 47, 53, 60, and 67, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the volume of the housing, defined by the product of the depth dimension and the height dimension and the width dimension being about 1,250 cubic inches;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

Regarding claims 34, 54, 61, 68, and 69, the prior art, taken either singly or in

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combination, does not teach:

- a memory storing master characteristic information associated with at least one genuine bill from each of at least two currency systems;
- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information, wherein the system is relatively compact.

Regarding claim 36, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the height dimension being about 4 times the smaller cross-sectional dimension of a U.S. bill;
- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the U.S. bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

Regarding claim 37, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the depth dimension of the housing being about 5 times the smaller cross-sectional dimension of U.S. bill;
- the width dimension of the housing being about 2 times the larger cross-sectional dimension of the U.S. bill;
- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

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Regarding claim 38, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- the height dimension being 10 inches;
- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based

on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

Regarding claims 39, 45, the prior art, taken either singly or in combination, does not teach:

- at least one stacker wheel having one portion extending into the transport path and another portion extending into the output bin, said stacker wheel being located along said transport path and spaced apart from the second roller along said transport path by a distance less than the narrow dimension of a U.S. bill;

- signal processing means for generating an indication of the denomination of the bill based on the comparison which the retrieved characteristic information sufficiently matches the master characteristic information.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

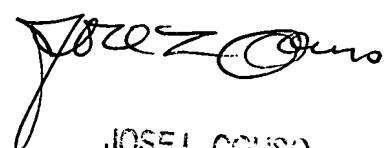
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Contact Information

4. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Hong Do whose telephone number is (703) 308-6720.

September 24, 2001.



JOSE L. COUSO
PRIMARY EXAMINER